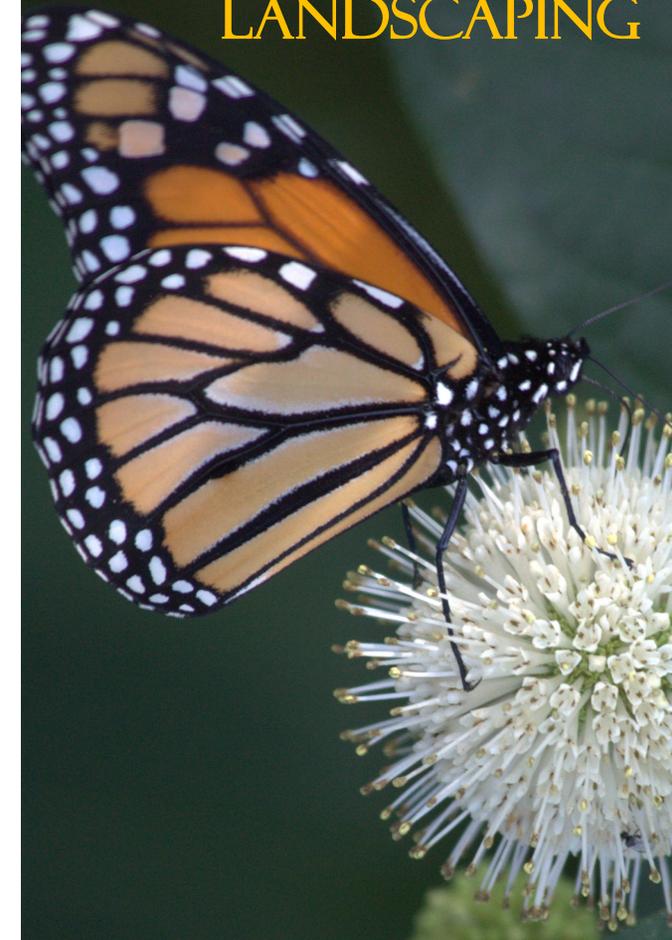


Bloom Period	Common Name	Botanical Name	Flower Color	Max Ht	Water Needs	Notes
					Low, Med, High	All species are perennials, unless otherwise noted. Max height is an average, individual plants may vary.
Forbs						
Early	Golden Alexanders	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	yellow	3	H	Host plant for black swallowtail butterfly; shallow nectaries attract small beneficial wasps, bees, and flies
	Wild geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	pink	3	M	Shade-tolerant; provides important spring food for mining, cuckoo, mason, sweat, bumble, and small carpenter bees
Early-Mid	Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	blue	3	M	The attractive flowers of this unique iris relative are frequented by bumble bees and other pollinators; shade tolerant
	Blue vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	blue	5	H	A preferred nectar plant for bees, butterflies, hover flies, and bee flies; choose <i>Verbena stricta</i> for drier soils
Mid	Narrowleaf mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	white	3	L-M	This and related species have fragrant foliage and nectar-rich flowers, very popular with butterflies, beetles, and more
	Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	pink	5	M-H	Host plants for monarchs, lovely fragrance attracts insects of all kinds, at drier site use common or butterfly milkweed
	Wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	purple	4	M	Hawk moths, hummingbirds, and long-tongued bumblebees (such as <i>Bombus pensylvanicus</i>) are common visitors
Mid-Late	Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	white	5	H	Flat-topped clusters of fluffy, nectar-rich flowers attract many kinds of insects; tolerant of partial shade and wet soils
	Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	ref	4	H	Striking, scarlet-red tubular flowers attract hummingbirds and swallowtail butterflies
	Field thistle	<i>Cersium discolor</i>	purple	6	M	Distinct from invasive, non-native thistles; an important plant for butterflies and bumble bees; grows as a perennial or biennial
	Wild golden glow	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	yellow	7	H	Long bloom period; shade-tolerant, visited by bumble bees and other pollinators; seeds provide food for birds
Late	Bottle gentian	<i>Gentiana clausa</i>	blue	2	M	This unique fall flower is almost exclusively pollinated by bumble bees, which pry the petals apart to climb inside
	Calico aster	<i>Symphotrichum lateriflorum</i>	white	3	M	The shallow nectaries attract more insect diversity than some larger-flowered aster species; tolerant of partial shade
	Grey goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	yellow	2	L	Excellent for poor soils where little else will grow; one of the latest blooming goldenrods; visited by many pollinators
	New England aster	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	purple	6	M	One of the latest fall-blooming plants; frequented by honey bees and pre-hibernation bumble bee queens
	Wrinkleleaf goldenrod	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	yellow	3	M-H	Goldenrods are frequented by beneficial solitary wasps, pollen-eating soldier beetles, bumbles bees, and much more
Shrubs /Trees						
Early	Highbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	white/pink	12	M-H	Well-loved by humans and also provides food for mining bees, mason bees, and long-tongued bumble bees
	Pussy willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>	yellow	15	M-H	Silky grey catkins open into flowers that provide spring forage for bees; host plant for mourning cloak butterflies
	Raspberry, blackberry	<i>Rubus spp.</i>	white	4+	M	Hollow canes/prunings make excellent nest sites for cavity-nesting bees; flowers are pollinated by many kinds of bees
Early-Mid	American basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	cream	60	M	Also called the "bee tree" for its abundance of very fragrant, nectar-rich flowers which are extremely attractive to bees
	Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	white	8	L	Deciduous shrub with attractive foliage, peeling bark, and white flowers; loved by birds, bees, and butterflies
Mid	New Jersey tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	white	4	M	A magnet for many species of flies, wasps, bees, and butterflies; slow-growing and prone to deer browsing
	Virginia rose	<i>Rosa virginiana</i>	pink	6	L	Foliage is used by leafcutter bees; flowers provide food for many pollinators; exceptional leaf coloration in the fall
Late	Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	white	12	H	Host plant for numerous moths and butterflies; pincushion-like flowers are very attractive to butterflies and bees

NATIVE PLANTS FOR SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING



Town of Concord
Division of Natural Resources
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All Photos Courtesy of Cherrie Corey
Plant List Produced by the Xerces Society

Why Native Plants?

Native, or indigenous, plants are plants that have evolved in the North American landscape prior to European colonization. Native plants are adapted to a particular region's climate and soils.



Native plants have formed complex interrelationships with our local wildlife over thousands or millions of years of evolution. They provide food and shelter for our wildlife and insects that sustain the food web of our ecosystem.

One of the reasons monarchs are declining is because they require native milkweeds for their larva to develop. When monarchs lay eggs on the invasive, non-native swallow-wort, a plant which is also in the milkweed family, larva are unable to survive.

Because native plants are well-adapted to our local landscape, they require little watering once established, and far less fertilizing, reducing our carbon footprint and preserving water, our most vulnerable natural resource.

Manicured lawns provide space for recreation and their well-kept appearance appeals to many people. Today, lawns in the US cover more than 63,000 square miles—roughly the size of Texas. Dominated by non-native species of turfgrass, these lawns require a staggering amount of water, fertilizers,

According to the U.S. National Wildlife Federation, the average suburban lawn receives 10 times as much chemical pesticide per acre as farmland.

pesticides, gasoline, and labor to keep them groomed and tidy. The environmental and economic costs are significant.

In 2005, NASA sponsored a study which found that lawns are the largest irrigated "crop" in the US.

If you want to do something good for the environment, consider naturescaping, a landscaping method using natural features rather than trying to adapt non-natives to your yard. Converting a portion of your lawn to native plants, and replacing non-natives with natives, is a cost-effective and ecologically sound approach that offers a host of environmental, financial, and aesthetic benefits.

Bringing native plants back into the garden is critical to preserving biodiversity and protecting against climate change. It's time to say goodbye to manicured landscapes and embrace naturescaping!



96% of North American birds raise young on insects, mostly caterpillars; healthy bird populations depend on healthy insect communities. According to an American Forests article authored by entomologist Doug Tallamy, non-native ornamentals host 29 times fewer caterpillars than native ornamentals. Our native oaks support over 500 species of butterflies and moths; the Asian ginkgo supports 5.

For More Information:

www.xerces.org/pollinators-northeast-region

www.audubon.org/native-plants/

www.grownativemass.org/resources/nurseries



Tips for Starting a Native Landscape:

- Start small. Work an area that is manageable for a season – there is always time to expand!
- Start with healthy soil. Test your soil so you know what nutrients you need (www.ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory)
- Add compost and leaf mulch to build up healthy soil organisms, which will break down materials into vital nutrients for plants.
- At the end of the growing season, amend the soil with leaf mulch from leaves in your yard. This will protect the plants over the winter while continuing to provide nutrients for plants and soil organisms. You can provide habitat for overwintering beneficial insects by leaving 18 inches of stems in place.
- Plant the right plants in the right place. Grouping plants with similar needs will allow them to thrive without lots of maintenance.
- Plant with successive bloom periods for beauty and benefits all season long.
- Water wisely. All plants need water to get established, but native plants will require far less once they are established.